

Message Text

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67

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCEM-02 EB-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7667

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AEC GERMANTOWN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IAEA, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: NPT RATIFICATION

REF: (A) BONN 13656, (B) BONN 13450, (C) BONN 12625

(PARA 7) - NOTAL

1. CSU LEADER FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS' LETTER TO CDU
BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES URGING OPPOSITION TO NPT RATIFICA-
TION (REF A) HAS ATTRACTED SWIFT AND CRITICAL REACTIONS
FROM SENIOR FRG GOVERNMENT AND SPD PARLIAMENTARY
LEADERS. THUS, IN STATEMENTS PUBLISHED BY SEVERAL
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SEPT 26 GERMAN NEWSPAPERS, TECHNOLOGY MINISTER EHMKE

TERMED THE STRAUSS INITIATIVE "A SENSELESS ATTACK WHICH COULD ONLY STIR MISTRUST AND BURDEN THE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND THE WESTERN ALLIANCE." KARL WIENAND, AN SPD BUNDESTAG LEADER, DENOUNCED STRAUSS' LETTER AS "THE HEIGHT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY" AND WARNED HIM TO GET OFF HIS "DESTRUCTIVE COURSE." A FEW GERMAN NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE INDEPENDENT AND INFLUENTIAL SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH, HAVE JOINED IN SHARPLY CRITICIZING STRAUSS.

2. SOME CDU DEPUTIES ALSO ARE GRUMBLING TO THE PRESS ABOUT STRAUSS, BUT ON NON-ATTRIBUTABLE BASIS. REDDEMANN, A CDU BUNDESTAG LEADER, SAID THE CDU/CSU WAS STILL ENGAGED IN AN "OPINION BUILDING PROCESS" ON THE NPT AND EURATOM/IAEA VERIFICATION AGREEMENT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FIRST BUNDESTAG READING OF THE NPT AND VERIFICATION AGREEMENT ARE DUE FOR NOVEMBER 8, AS SCHEDULING PROBLEMS PRECLUDE AN EARLIER PRESENTATION TO THE BUNDESTAG BY FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL. GIVEN STRAUSS ATTACKS, FONOFF SOURCE SAYS FIRST READING MAY BE OCCASION FOR SOME AVID DEBATE RATHER THAN USUAL FORMAL READING. COMMITTEE HEARINGS PROBABLY WOULD THEREAFTER COMMENCE IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER. HENCE, IN THE VIEW OF FONOFF DISARMAMENT OFFICIAL, FINAL RATIFICATION BY BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT IS UNLIKELY BEFORE NEXT FEBRUARY/MARCH, A BIT LATER THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. THE EXTENT OF DELAY IN FINAL FRG RATIFICATION WILL OF COURSE DEPEND ON HOW THE CDU/CSU PARLIAMENTARY PARTY DECIDES TO DEAL WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE AND TACTICAL POLITICAL ISSUES.

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